(d) what steps are being taken to end the huge disparity in labour productivity among the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to a World Bank-CII report (January 2002) on "Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing" India's advantage of lower labour cost is neutralised by its lower productivity.

(b) The same report states that variations on 'value added per worker' across the States indicate that States having better investment climate enjoy higher labour productivity.

(c) According to the report, in the value added per worker' category, India's is for below other countries but it is at par with other countries in case of 'value added per unit of labour cost'. The labour productivity of India and other countries are, however, not comparable as there are significant variations in the concept used and methodologies adopted.

(d) The planning process in India has aimed at creating conditions for improvement in labour productivity through provision of training, up-gradation of skills and improvement in tool-kits, equipment and production techniques. The resources have been accordingly directed through the plan programmes towards achieving this objective.

Protection of Labour Interest

2005. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to devise their own standards for globalization to the needs and aspiration of the country for protecting labour interest; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps likely to be taken to protect the labour interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) There is a need for every country to have an understanding of the process of globalisation and to

carefully calibrate the pace and extant of external liberalisation in order to fully project labour interests. The existing labour laws in India already protect the interests of the various sections of the labour force. The Second National Commission on Labour while developing the framework in its recommendations is expected to take into account the economic environment involving rapid economic changes, globalisation of economy and liberalisation of trade and industry so that the existing labour laws are in tune with the future labour market needs and demands.

Manpower Exports

2006. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of man power exports busted in the country during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons arrested and prosecuted so far; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Government has granted under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, prosecution sanctions, during the year 2001, in respect of 18 agencies/individuals involved in sending persons abroad illegally.

(b) A total of 35 persons are involved in these 18 cases. These prosecution cases are pending in appropriate Courts.

(c) With a view to curbing the activities of unscrupulous agencies/ individuals, detailed guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administration for issue of necessary instructions right down to the level of police stations for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of unscrupulous agencies/individuals.

Health Hazards to Construction Workers

2007. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the workers engaged in construction and repair of roads in the country;